



Veryant, the COBOL technology innovator

Evolution, without revolution



Almabani General Contractors
Accounting, finance, invoicing, and asset management software

CASE STUDY

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia





Almabani General Contractors in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, has a long, prosperous, history beginning with the establishment of the company in October, 1972. For five decades they have gained expertise and grown to serve an increasingly demanding and challenging construction need in the region.

In a prosperous economy fueled by the oil boom, Almabani has been well positioned to participate in the execution of some of the most prestigious landmark projects in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Almabani is involved in several areas of activities today, including: Aviation, Buildings, Infrastructures, Military, Power, and Railways. They have the highest classification among all civil and electrical works in Saudia Arabia, with the in-house capacity to develop, design, and value engineer solutions to cater for their clients' needs.

Business Driver

Almabani's accounting system, completely written by a team of in-house developers, was a COBOL application that ran from the DOS command line. The software that provided English/ Arabic functionality was migrated in late 2008 to Windows and Novell Netwre and Novell Linux using ACUCOBOL-GT, Acubench and AcuODBC.

In 2013 Almabani realized that managing and deploying their COBOL application on new platforms had become increasingly difficult as the company's sites and number of users grew.

So, they decided to look for a way to modernize their IT environment as well as provide a replicated file system to be used to synchronize data between multiple offices and project sites effortlessly. The goal was to maintain their solid and effective COBOL software application and not replace it with a third-party software.

Solution

Despite the goal of keeping their COBOL, Almabani did consider purchasing a replacement package and a new related database management system, but neither of the analyzed options provided a custom system at a reasonable cost.

Previous COBOL
ACUCOBOL-GT

Previous IDE
AcuBench

Previous data format
Vision

Current COBOL
isCOBOL Evolve

Current IDE
isCOBOL IDE (Eclipse based)

Current data format
c-treeRTG



Their decision to use Veryant allowed Almabani to:

- Keep its secure COBOL structure by recompiling more than 850 programs with isCOBOL Evolve without changing any of their code;
- Modernize the whole application without effort and without structural change;
- Convert its Vision data files to c-treeRTG Enterprise quickly and easily with Veryant's data migration tools;
- Take full advantage of the skill and knowledge of Almabani's in-house developers.

All their AcuBench projects seamlessly migrated to isCOBOL's IDE and Almabani's application was converted, tested, and in production with the new system running with Java in just 2 months.

Almabani's data goals were met with the full bi-directional replication system provided by Veryant's full-featured native data solution: c-treeRTG Enterprise.

This allowed them to have their data fully synchronized and backed up in real-time with an easy-to-use process, instead of having to move all their data to a duplicated RDBMS.

Veryant also provided training and extra support to Almabani's development team, giving them all the necessary skills for the successful use of isCOBOL Evolve as well as the confidence to exploit isCOBOL's modernizing potential.

FUTURE PLANS

Almabani intends to further enhance its application by deploying on the Web, incorporating electronic data interchange and utilizing mobile computing. Almabani is happy to be able to depend on Veryant for these future endeavors, recognizing that Veryant's solution is the most complete COBOL to Java Modernization solution in the market today.

WHY VERYANT?

The new system is far cheaper than alternatives. "If I had gone with another database for replication, my day-to-day costs would be five to 10 times more. And because Veryant provides a multi-platform solution, I didn't have to change hardware.

John Lincoln
Chief Information Officer



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